

# Attitudes toward Handicapped People, Past and Present

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## Introduction

This annotated bibliography includes books and periodical articles, films, and bibliographies about past and contemporary attitudes toward handicapped persons. Selections from the literature on this subject were made on the basis of interest to the non-professional. More technical writings can be identified through indexes such as Psychological Abstracts found in most public and university libraries.

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## I. Books and Periodical Articles

Biklen, Douglas and Robert Bogdan. Media portrayals of disabled persons. Education digest, v. 44, Oct. 1978: 33-35.

Reprint of an article originally published in the Interracial Books for Children Bulletin, this article gives ten examples of poor attitudes fostered by the way disabled people are portrayed in the media.

Bogdan, Robert and Douglas Biklen. Handicapism. Social policy, v. 7, Mar.-Apr. 1977: 14-19.

Describes the concept of handicapism and uses specific examples to show how society supports this prejudice.

Boswell, David M. and Janet M. Wingrove, eds. Perceptions and conceptions of impairment. In The handicapped person in the community. London: Tavistock Publications Ltd., 1974. p. 77-124.

Contains four articles that deal with the way we perceive handicapped persons.

Bowe, Frank, Handicapping America: barriers to disabled people. New York: Harper & Row, 1978. 254p.

Shows how attitudes prevalent in the United States prevent handicapped people from participating fully in society.

Brodwin, Martin G. and Gwendolyn Gardner. Teacher attitudes toward the physically disabled. Journal of teaching and learning, v. 3, June 1978: 40-45.

Evaluation of a survey to measure the attitudes of teachers toward physically disabled persons, using the Attitudes Toward Disabled Persons (ATDP) Scale. This scale measures attitudes about work, personal characteristics, and economic concerns.

Cleary, Margaret. Helping children understand the child with special needs. Children today, v. 5, July-Aug. 1976: 6-10.

A description of a project to develop an exemplary program for improving children's attitudes toward disabled people.

Cohen, Shirley. Improving attitudes toward the handicapped. The educational forum, v. 42, Nov. 1977: 9-20.

Discusses the importance of attitudes of students and teachers in mainstreaming. Offers information on the foundations of attitudes as well as suggestions for improving them. Advocates a curricular approach to modifying attitudes.

Cohen, Shirley. Special people. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1977. 177p. (The psychology in action series).

Contains information on the status of handicapped persons. Several chapters deal with attitudes toward handicapped persons.

Donaldson, Joy. Changing attitudes toward handicapped persons; a review and analysis of research. Exceptional children, v. 46, Apr. 1980: 504-514.

A review of research on the modification of attitudes toward disabled persons showing common factors in successful projects.

English, R. William. Combating stigma toward physically disabled persons. Rehabilitation research and practice review, v. 2, Feb. 1971: 19-27.

Offers ten specific suggestions for improving society's attitudes toward disabled people. The findings are based on many studies on the subject.

Finkelstein, Victor. Attitudes and disabled people; issues for discussion. New York: World Rehabilitation Fund, 1980. 107p. (400 East 34th Street 10016).

Directed toward persons working in rehabilitation or welfare services, this in-depth discussion includes a definition of disability and raises issues involved in changing attitudes toward people with handicaps. Appendices include commentaries by four well-known experts in this area.

Fix, Colleen and Jo Anne Rohrbacher. What is a handicap? The impact of attitudes. Personnel and guidance journal, v. 56, Nov. 1977. 176-178.

By means of a workshop format, demonstrates techniques for giving non-disabled persons an opportunity to experience disability.

French, Richard S. From Homer to Helen Keller; a social and educational study of the blind. New York: American Foundation for the Blind, 1932. 298p. (15 West 16th Street 10011).

Traces historical attitudes toward blindness and other disabilities.

Gliedman, John. The wheelchair rebellion. Psychology today, v. 13, Aug. 1979: 59-64, 99.

The attitudes of society force handicapped people to see themselves as an oppressed minority.

Gliedman, John and William Roth. The unexpected minority. New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1980. 525p.

Explores discrimination against disabled people and reports on the status of disabled children.

Goffman, Erving. Stigma; notes on the management of spoiled identity. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1963. 147p.

A basic book on attitudes toward persons who are different and how those attitudes affect disabled persons.

Gowman, Alan G. The war blind in American social structure. New York: American Foundation for the Blind, 1957. 237p. (15 West 16th Street 10011).

A view of blind persons as they function within the confines of social attitudes. Includes chapters on stereotypes, attitudes toward blindness, and the interactive process.

Harmonay, Maureen, ed. Attitudes and images. In Promise and performance: children with special needs. v. 1. Cambridge, Mass.: Ballinger Publishing Co., 1977. p. 1-54.

Contains five articles on attitudes, changing attitudes, and how disabled people are portrayed by the media.

Haskins, James. Who are the handicapped? Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1978. 109p.

Stresses the abilities of handicapped people. Gives information on different disabilities in light of current attitudes and provides information on the history of attitudes toward different disabilities.

Hoyt, Jane Hauser. Feeling free. American education, v. 14, Nov. 1978: 24-28.

Describes a television program designed to help children understand disabled persons.

Jernigan, Kenneth. Blindness; of visions and vultures. The braille monitor, Sept. 1976: 443-452.

Address delivered at the Annual Convention of the National Federation of the Blind. Points out that the major problem of blindness is not blindness itself but the negative attitudes of the public. Gives specific examples.

Kirtley, Donald D. Attitudes toward blindness. In The psychology of blindness, Chicago: Nelson-Hall, 1975. p. 1-117.

Contains chapters on the place of blind persons in history, the symbolism of the eyes and their dysfunction, blindness in the arts, and research on attitudes toward blindness.

Knott, Gladys P. Attitudes and needs of parents of cerebral palsied children. Rehabilitation literature, v. 40, July 1979: 190-195, 206.

Outlines individual family member's attitudes toward a cerebral palsied child as well as the needs of the family as a whole. Offers suggestions for building positive support and directions for parents of a disabled child.

Koestler, Frances A. Myths, taboos, and stereotypes. In The unseen minority; a social history of blindness in America. New York: David McKay, 1976. p. 1-12.

Provides information on the history of attitudes toward blind persons.

Lippman, Leopold D. Attitudes toward the handicapped; a comparison between Europe and the United States. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1972. 118p.

Recognizing that better attitudes toward mentally-handicapped persons in Europe result in better services, the author researched those attitudes related to better services and how services could be improved in the U.S.

Looks can kill; the rights and needs of disabled people. Journal of current social issues, v. 16, Spring 1979: 3-69.

The entire issue of this journal is concerned with the rights of disabled people. Includes several articles on attitudes toward disabled persons.

Lovejoy, Eunice. Change isn't easy. Dikta, v. 4, Spring 1979: 4-9.

Lists several suggestions for changing staff attitudes as well as many resources for more information. Directed toward librarians.

Lowenfeld, Berthold. The changing status of the blind; from separation to integration. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1975. 336p.

An interpretation of how the social status of blind persons has evolved. Includes a historical review and examination of the forces that favor integration and those that do not.

Lukoff, Irving, Oscar Cohen, and others. Attitudes toward blind persons. New York: American Foundation for the Blind, 1972. 74p. \$4.00. (15 West 16th Street 10011).

Contains articles on attitudes toward blindness, prejudice, attitudes of families toward blind persons, attitudes of professionals in and out of the field, and on education, legislation, and media.

Mauer, Ruth A. Young children's responses to a physically disabled story-book hero. Exceptional children, v. 45, Feb. 1979: 326-330.

Report of a study to determine young children's reactions to disabled characters in books. Includes responses of both disabled and non-disabled children.

McDaniel, James. Attitudes and disability. In Physical disability and human behavior. 2nd ed. Elmsford, N.Y.: Pergamon Press, 1976. p. 34-51. (Pergamon general psychology series).

Contains chapters on the bases of attitudes toward disabled persons, attitudes of employers, families, and professionals.

Monbeck, Michael E. The meaning of blindness; attitudes toward blindness and blind people. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 1973. 214p.

An investigation of attitudes toward blindness and blind persons and the origins of those attitudes.

Monson, Dianne and Cynthia Shurtleff. Altering attitudes toward the physically handicapped through print and non-print media. Language arts, v. 56, Feb. 1979: 163-170.

Report of a study aimed at altering attitudes of elementary school-age children toward handicapped people, using films and literature. Contains a short bibliography of books for intermediate and junior high grades.

Nelson, Roberta. Creating community acceptance for handicapped people. Springfield, Ill.: Charles C. Thomas, 1978. 220p.

Aimed at influencing the community to be supportive and more accepting of disabled persons, this book offers suggestions for community projects and other methods of changing a community's attitudes toward disabled persons.

Nigro, Giovanna. Sexuality in the handicapped; some observations on human needs and attitudes. Rehabilitation literature, v. 36, July 1975: 202-205.

Reprint of a paper presented at the Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine describing negative attitudes toward sexuality in handicapped persons and affirming the right of all persons to develop sexually.

Nugent, Timothy. More than ramps and braille. American education, v. 14, Aug.-Sept. 1978: 11-18.

Recognizes the attitudinal as well as the architectural barriers that disabled students have to overcome. Describes one university's attempts to help students overcome these barriers.



Park, Leslie D. Barriers to normality for the handicapped adult in the United States. Rehabilitation literature, v. 36, April 1975: 108-111.

Portions of a speech presented at the Ninth Annual Seminar of the International Cerebral Palsy Society. Describes different barriers and discusses solutions.

Pieper, Elizabeth. What price charity. The exceptional parent, v. 5, Jan.-Feb. 1975: 35-40.

Emphasizes the need to re-evaluate our charitable efforts for disabled persons.

Regional Rehabilitation Research Institute on Attitudinal, Legal, and Leisure Barriers. Barrier awareness series. Washington, D.C.: George Washington University, n.d. (various pagings). \$0.50 ea. (1828 L Street, N.W., Suite 704 20036).

A series of seven booklets dealing with attitudes toward disability. Each booklet focuses on a different aspect of attitudinal barriers.

Reynales, Barbara W. How literature affects the public's image of the handicapped. Paraplegia news, v. 29, Apr. 1976: 16-17.

Discusses three books about disabled people to show how good portraits of disabled people in literature can help improve public attitudes.

Ross, Ruth-Ellen and I. Robert Freeland. Handicapped people in society; a curriculum guide. Burlington, Vt.: University of Vermont, 1977. 178p.

A curriculum guide for teachers of all grade levels. Provides information on historical aspects, current attitudes, specific lessons and evaluation techniques, and many resources such as books, films, and sources of further information for students and teachers.

Scheffers, Wenda L. Sighted children learn about blindness. Journal of visual impairment and blindness, v. 71, June 1977: 258-261.

Describes a unit of 20 lesson plans to teach sighted children about blindness. Includes details about the lessons and how children's attitudes were changed.

Schulz, Paul J. A group approach to working with families of the blind. New outlook for the blind, v. 62, Mar. 1968: 82-86.

A discussion of family attitudes toward blindness and a description of a program at the Braille Institute of America to effect attitudinal changes.

Schulz, Paul J. The sight of blindness and the phenomenon of avoidance. New outlook for the blind, v. 69, June 1975: 261-265.

Presents some typical attitudes toward blind persons, ideas on what causes those attitudes and how they can be changed.

Sears, James H. The able disabled. Journal of rehabilitation, v. 41, Mar.-Apr. 1975: 19-22.

Written by an employee of du Pont, this article discusses attitudes toward disabled employees and offers suggestions on improving employment opportunities for disabled people. Reprint of an article originally published in CHEMTECH.

Siperstein, Gary N. and John J. Bak. Improving children's attitudes toward blind peers. Journal of visual impairment and blindness, v. 74, Apr. 1980: 132-135.

Examines the effects of a classroom program to see if children's attitudes toward blind peers could be improved. The children who participated had better feelings about blind children but were less inclined to engage in activities with them.

Thoreson, Richard W. and Barbara A. Kerr. The stigmatizing aspects of severe disability; strategies for change. Journal of applied rehabilitation, v. 9, Summer 1978: 21-26.

A discussion of several aspects of attitudes toward disabled persons including an analysis of the healer-patient relationship.

Thurer, Shari. Disability and monstrosity; a look at literary distortions of handicapping conditions. Rehabilitation literature, v. 41, Jan.-Feb. 1980: 12-15.

Describes some typical stereotypes found in literature and drama. Attempts to explain some of the reasons for these portrayals and describes the harm they cause.

Twersky, Jacob. Blindness in literature; examples of depictions and attitudes. New York: American Foundation for the Blind, 1955. 57p. (15 West 16th Street 10011).

Portrayals of blind persons in the literature of western civilization from Biblical to modern times.

Weinberg, Nancy and Rosina Santana. Comic books; champions of the disabled stereotype. Rehabilitation literature, v. 39, Nov.-Dec. 1978: 327-331.

A study of stereotypes of disabled persons found in comic books.

Wentworth, Elise H. Listen to your heart; a message to parents of handicapped children. Boston, Mass.: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1974. 262p.

Organized around the emotional stages most parents of disabled children go through. Written to aid parents in understanding their emotional reactions.

Wolfensberger, Wolf. The ideal human service for a societally devalued group. Rehabilitation literature, v. 39, January 1978: 15-17.

An evaluation of professional and rehabilitation facilities for handicapped persons that shows how these facilities perpetuate poor attitudes toward handicapped persons.

Wright, Beatrice A. Changes in attitudes toward people with handicaps. Rehabilitation literature, v. 34, Dec. 1973: 354-357, 368.

Shows how increased emphasis on human and civil rights since World War II has had an impact on society's attitudes toward people with handicaps.

Wright, Beatrice A. Physical disability-a psychological approach. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1960. 408p.

Basic book on the psychological effects of physical disability. Contains several sections on attitudes toward persons with disabilities.

## II. Films

Australian Commonwealth Film Unit. A question of attitude. 1970. (Available from the International Rehabilitation Film Library, 20 West 40th Street, New York, N.Y. 10018).

A 12-minute color film directed toward employers demonstrating some of the basic prejudices against hiring disabled persons.

Canadian Broadcasting Company. I am not what you see. 1975. (Available from Filmmakers Library, 290 West End Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10023).

A 28-minute color film of a television interview with Sondra Diamond. Presents a frank discussion of disability, prejudice, and society.

Canadian Rehabilitation Council for the Disabled. Being. 1973. (Available from International Rehabilitation Film Library, 20 West 40th Street, New York, N.Y. 10018).

A 20-minute color film depicting the problems faced by a disabled person looking for social acceptance.

Center for Independent Living. Crip-trips. n.d. (Available from the President's Committee on the Employment of the Handicapped, Washington, D.C. 20210).

A 16-minute black and white film describing the lives of three disabled people.

Coming home. 1974. (Available from Stanfield House, 900 Euclid Avenue, Santa Monica, Calif. 90403).

A 27-minute color film about a group home for retarded persons in the community and the attitudes of neighbors.

A day in the life of Bonnie Consolo. 1976. (Available from Arthur Barr Productions, 3490 Foothill Boulevard, Pasadena, Calif. 91107).

A 17-minute color film describing the life of Bonnie Consolo who was born without arms. Shows how she leads a normal productive life.

Like other people. n.d. (Available from Perennial Education, Inc., P.O. Box 236, Northfield, Ill. 60093).

A 37-minute color film about cerebral palsy patients showing different aspects of being handicapped and helping the viewer understand physically disabled persons.

A matter of inconvenience. 1974. (Available from Stanfield House, 900 Euclid Avenue, Santa Monica, Calif. 90403).

A 10-minute color film exploring the difference between a disability and a handicap and depicting disabled skiers.

Mimi. n.d. (Available from Billy Budd Films, Inc., 235 East 57th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022).

A 12-minute black and white film showing how a young woman copes with her disability and society's inability to respond to her in a normal way.

People First. 1976. (Available from Stanfield House, 900 Euclid Avenue, Santa Monica, Calif. 90403).

A 34-minute color film documenting the activities of People First, a self-advocacy group of developmentally disabled persons.

Reynolds Television Limited. Blind in a career. 1974. (Available from International Rehabilitation Film Library, 20 West 40th Street, New York, N.Y. 10018).

A 12-minute color film that describes the successful careers of four blind persons.

South Bay Mayors' Committee for Employment of the Handicapped. A different approach. 1978. (Available from the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped, Washington, D.C. 20210).

A 21-minute color film using a humorous approach to promote the abilities of disabled people.

The toughest barrier. n.d. (Available from ISURF/Film Production Unit.  
Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011).

A 25-minute color film that shows four disabled persons speaking out against the attitudes of society that prevent them from leading normal lives.

University of Wisconsin. Fitting in. 1976. (Available from the University of Wisconsin, Bureau of Audio-Visual Instruction, 1327 University Avenue, P.O. Box 2093, Madison, Wis. 53701).

A 27-minute color film focusing on the lives of three developmentally disabled people and showing problems such as job discrimination, public misunderstanding, and personal conflicts.

What to do when you see a blind person. 1971. (Available from the American Foundation for the Blind, 15 West 16th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011).

A 14-minute color film demonstrating the right and wrong ways to deal with people who are blind.

### III. Bibliographies

Baskin, Barbara H. and Karen H. Harris. Notes from a different drummer. New York: R.R. Bowker, 1977. 375p.

The greater part of this book consists of an annotated guide to juvenile and young adult fiction dealing with physically and mentally handicapped people. Other sections include information on the attitudes of society toward disabled persons and literary treatment of disability.

Bisshop, Patricia. Books about handicaps for children and young adults. East Providence, R.I.: Rhode Island Easter Seal Society, 1978. 64p.

A listing of books about people with disabilities, designed to foster better attitudes toward disabled people.

Kelly, Jeff. The disabled in fiction. a high school guide. The exceptional parent, v. 8, Oct. 1978: 12-15.

A list of books for adolescents about people with disabilities. Listed by type of disability.

Lamb, Charles B. Fostering acceptance of a disabled sibling through books. The exceptional parent, v. 10, Feb. 1980: 12-13.

This article describes twelve books about persons with mentally disabled siblings.

Landau, Elliott D., Sherrie L. Epstein, and Ann P. Stone. The exceptional child through literature. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1978. 286p.

Written for people who work with exceptional children, this book uses literature to aid in understanding the development of exceptional children.

Mullins, June and Suzanne Wolfe. Special people behind the eight-ball; an annotated bibliography of literature classified by handicapping conditions. Johnstown, Pa.: Mafex Assoc., 1975. 202p.

Lists fiction, biography, and autobiographical works about disabled people for the general public.

Panieczko, Sophia. Attitudes and disability; a selected annotated bibliography, January 1975-August 1977. Washington, D.C.: Regional Rehabilitation Research Institute on Attitudinal, Legal, and Leisure Barriers. George Washington University, n.d., 82p. (1828 L Street, N.W., Suite 704 20036).

Contains chapters on attitudes of disabled persons, professionals, families, general society, and sections related to education, employment, and changing attitudes.

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